

Meeting Date: 4th January 2022

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Communities, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Elizabeth Mallinson**

REGULATORY SERVICES

The City Council has been working with Foundations, the Agency who oversees the Disabled Facilities Grants, to improve the reporting the City Council is able to do. We are finalising the key performance indicator reports and starting a financial report. Once both reports are finished, they will both reduce the Officer time required to produce data whilst also greatly improving the data that can be represented. Types of works, the referrals for those grants, tenures and ages of the recipients are examples of data easily retrievable from the key performance report.

HEALTHY CITY TEAM

Food Carlisle

£10,000 funding from Sustainable Food Places for 2022 has been secured, to be match funded by the City Council. A grant application has also been put in for 'Veg City', to support the work of Food Carlisle in increasing the availability and consumption of vegetables.

Walking for Health

The Wednesday health walks continue to be very well attended with on average between 25 people attending the 10.30 a.m. walk and 15 people attending the 1.00 p.m. walk. 10 new walkers have recently joined the health walks. A former local history librarian at Carlisle Library joined the health walk around Rickerby Park and provided some fascinating information about the history of the park, the cenotaph and the Eden Gardens. The Healthy City Team supported the planning and delivery of a training session for new walk leaders in partnership with Active Cumbria. 10 people attended this session, and they are now trained to be able to deliver 'Ramblers' health walks in their local communities within Carlisle District.

Knife Angel

The Knife Angel arrived in Carlisle on 1st December and will be with us until around 4th January when it will travel on to Barrow in Furness. During its stay the Knife Angel has attracted a great deal of attention with people visiting to see it and a huge amount of activity on Social Media.

This project was only possible thanks to a collaborative approach between partners with Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council organising the relocation and installation. Cumbria Police will be leading on the month-long awareness programme in schools and other organisations, and this will also coincide with Operation Divan which looks at the dangers and consequences of carrying knives or weapons.

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Carlisle City Council is reaffirming its commitment to the armed forces by resigning the Covenant on 7th March 2022. We are inviting partner organisations and businesses to sign it with us. This forms part of the Council's advocacy and its action plan to achieve the Gold Award of the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

The Armed Forces Covenant [is a](#) pledge to *“acknowledge and understand that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve with their lives”*¹

It helps members of the armed forces community have the same access to Government and commercial services and products as any other citizen. Carlisle City Council signed the Covenant in 2013 and wants to reconfirm its support.

Armed Forces Bill 2021

The primary purpose of the Armed Forces Bill 2021 is to renew the Armed Forces Act 2006 (itself renewed by the Armed Forces Acts of 2011 and 2016). The Bill requires specified public bodies to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant in the areas of housing, education and healthcare.

The Armed Forces Bill had its third reading in the House of Lords in November 2021, Consideration of Commons amendments on 8th December, and is due for Consideration of Lords message on 13th December. When the exact wording has been agreed by the Commons and the Lords, the Bill will be ready for Royal Assent. Once a Bill receives Royal Assent it is made an Act of Parliament. Carlisle City Council will continue to work with partners and the Cumbria Armed Forces Covenant Partnership to prepare for the duties within the Bill.

BUDGET 2022/23

As part of the budget process, the budget will undergo an equality impact assessment. This will focus on impacts on protected characteristics, and if these require further investigation or amendments.

PLACE COORDINATOR

Interviews were held on Monday, 13th December for the Place Coordinator post with start date planned for end of January 2022.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

The Customer Contact Centre has been open to the public since 30th September 2021. Footfall is below pre-covid levels although we are now beginning to see an increase. Since reopening we have served 1,090 people.

Following on from Working from Home guidance announced on 8th December, Customer Services have worked hard to keep services open whilst protecting staff. From 13th December, the team has remained in the Office but has been split into 'bubbles', working from two locations in the Civic Centre. The Contact Centre remains open as normal to ensure our most vulnerable customers can access our services.

Plans are in place to ensure service continuity should the Omicron variant lead to more restrictions.